# ARTICLES

OF

## VISITATION and INQUIRY

CONCERNING

# Matters Eccleſiaſtical.

Exhibted to the

Miniſters, Church-wardens, and Side-men, of every Pariſh within the Arch-Deaconry of *WELLS*. In the Dioceſs of *BATH* and *WELLS*.

And is very uſeful for all the Dioceſſes in *England*.

### *The Tenour of the Oath of the Church-wardens, and Sworn Men.*

YOU ſhall ſwear, that you, and every of you, ſhall faithfully Execute your ſeveral Offices of Church-wardens and Side-men, according to Law, to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge. *So help you God, and the Contents of his Holy Goſpel.*

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# ARTICLES

OF

## VISITATION and INQUIRY

Within the

## Diocefs of *BATH* and *WELLS*.

### TIT. I.

### *Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.*

Can. 8. 1. IS your Pariſh-Church or Chappel, in good and ſufficient Repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church or Chappel, or Steeple been demoliſhed or pulled down? What part, and how long ſince? Or any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezeled or ſold, and by whom?

28. 3. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a Cover? Doth the Miniſter Baptize publickly only in the Font?

Is

Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another covering of white Linnen, to be ſpread thereon at the time of the Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper? And have you a fair Chalice, or Communion Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons? Have they been profaned by common uſe? Or detain'd from their Sacred uſes by any Perſons? And by whom?

4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloath or Cuſhion, a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, and a Book of Common-Prayer lately Publiſhed, *Anno* 1662. the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority, and a Printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical, and a decent Surplice? 20. 82. 83. 80. 3 *Stat.* 98.

5. Have you a Regiſter Book in Parchment of Chriſtnings, Burials, and Marriages? And is the ſame kept in all points according to the Ancient uſe? 58. 87. 70. 52.

6. Have you a Book of Paper, to Record the Names and Licences of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? And do ſuch Strangers ſubſcribe their Names? As alſo a Book for the Church-Wardens Accompts? As alſo a Cheſt with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the ſaid Books, and the afore-mentioned Furniture?

## TIT. II.

## *Concerning the Church-yard, the Houſes, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.*

1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any Perſon encroached upon the ſame, or made any door in it? And how long ſince?

2. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houſes in good repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence? Have there been any encroachments made upon the ſame? Or any of the Ancient Marks or Bounds removed or changed? And by whom?

*Can.* 87. 3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? As alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits, (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? Have any of the ſame been with-held from your Miniſter? And by whom, as you know, or have heard?

## TIT. III.

## *Concerning Miniſters.*

1. IS your Miniſter reſident among you? How many Weeks hath he been abſent from you without urgent neceſſity?

*Can.* 47, 48. 2. Hath your Miniſter a Curate reſident in your Pariſh? Is he in Holy Orders, and conformable to the Laws of the Church?

3. Doth

3. Doth your Minister at the reading of Divine Service, or administrating the Sacraments, wear a Surplice? Doth he constantly (not having reasonable Impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? Or if he be hindred, doth he procure one to supply his Office, by Preaching or Reading one of the Homilies? 58. 45, 46. 47.

4. Doth your Minister instruct the Youth in your Parish in the Church-Catechism, and prepare them to be confirmed by the Bishop. *Can.* 89. *Rubr. before Confirmat.*

5. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of Death? Doth he Baptize any without God-fathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? 67. 69.

6. Hath your Minister married any Persons without publishing the Banes on three Sundays or Holidays, unless he had a Licence or Dispensation so to do? Or hath he married any in private Houses, or not between the Hours of Eight and Twelve in the Morning? 62.

7. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of sober Life and Conversation? Or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister? 75.

## TIT. IV.

## *Concerning the Parishioners.*

1. IS there any Person in your Parish that lieth under a common Fame or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blas- *Can.* 109.

Blasphemers of Gods Name; or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean and filthy Talkers, or Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord among their Neighbours?

59. *Expreſt in a Table ſet forth by Authority.* Anno Dom. 1563. 2. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not Cohabit together?

*Rubr. Can.* 85. 3. Are there any, that refuse to pay their Duty for *Easter* Offerings? Or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

*Rubr.* 6. 4. Are there any Wills or Testaments of Persons dead in your Parish, that are yet unproved? Or any Goods Administred without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or any other Pious and Charitable purposes? What were those Legacies? And how have they been bestowed?

5. Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pew been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

## TIT. V.

## *Concerning the Parish Clerks and Sextons.*

*Can.* 91. 1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clerk aged Twenty one Years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation, and sufficient

cient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? And doth he duely attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duely paid him, or who with-holdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent? In tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service? And when any Person is passing out of this Life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying Person to the grace and favour of God?

## TIT. VI.

## *Concerning School-Masters, Schools, Physicians, Chyrurgeons and Midwives.*

1. DOth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by your Ordinary? *Can.* 77. 79.

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chyrurgery? Doth any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without licence from the Ordinary?

## TIT. VII.

## *Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.*

1. ARE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duely chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Church-wardens? *Can.* 89.

2. Have

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2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish? And delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the Moneys remaining in their Hands, together with the Common Plate, and all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

*Rubr. at the Communion.*

3. You are farther to understand, that according to your Office, you are to provide against every communion appointed in your Church or Chappel sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of the Communicants.

4. You the Church-wardens and Side-men, are to maintain the Church in sufficient repair, which is to be done by a Tax made by the Church-wardens and Parish Overseers, and publick notice given of the time and place where they meet, and those that refuse, are to be sued in the Ecclesiastical Court only.

5. You are also to exhibit a bill of presentments to the Court, of the offenders in your Parish, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

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*FINIS.*